BISHOP FORD CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HIGHPOINT

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FORD SCHOLARS TRIUMPH

William Ryan

Some of the Seniors at Bishop Ford have been awarded scholarships to different colleges in New York and Long Island. The Seniors work hard for these scholarships and we wish them success in the future as well.

Senior Frank Panicali was recently awarded a full scholarship to Saint John's University in Jamaica, Queens for a solar energy project which he entered in the University's annual science fair.

Frank explained during a recent interview, "the project was inspired last summer by an article I read about solar energy. I devised a theory to transfer solar energy into cooking heat. With the help of Mr. Gary Vitta and Mr. Tony Defina I designed a working model. The entire project took six months to develop."

Frank, who comes from Saint Mary Mother of Jesus Grammer School in Bensonhurst has worked very hard in Bishop Ford both during school hours and after. Frank has been an active member of the National Honor Society, the Science Club, Math and Tutoring Programs, the Student Council, and has also written for Bishop Ford High School's New Millenium.

Senior Majed G. Khanji was recently awarded a scholarship to Manhattan College in Riverside, New York. The Scholarship has a maximum grant of $2,000 dollars. Majed received $1,000 based on scholastic records.

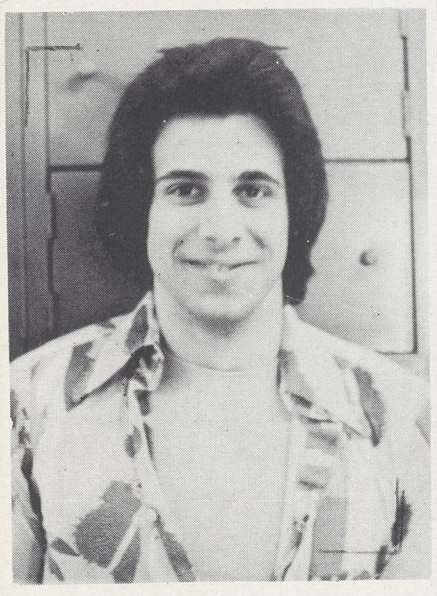
Majed plans to work in the field of civil engineering. He remarked, "Any success requires experience."Therefore, he wishes to become involved in the field at an early date. A Ph.D. degree will come after some experience.

Majed does not plan to use the scholarship because of the long travel and inconvenient schedule of the school. He remarked, "It's not that well known." Majed plans to attend N.Y. Polytech. It has one of the highest reputations among the colleges.

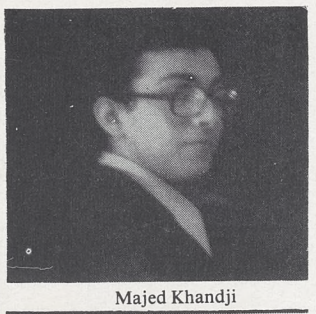
Michael Fragale recently won two full scholarships, the first to Long Island University based upon academic standing and the second to St. John's University, also based upon academic excellence

Michael has participated in many activities here at Ford, including Highpoint, the National Honor Socity, the yearbook, the Ford Fraternity , tutoring, and the Science Club.

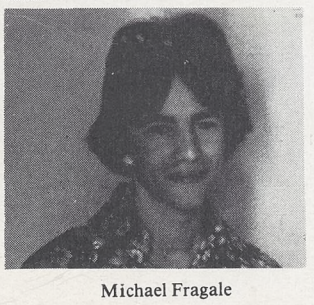
"The awards were a complete surprise to me. I am somewhat overjoyed and plan to make good use of them," stated Michael during our discussion.



Frank Panicali



Majed Khandji



Michael Fragale

GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!

John Coppola

Next year will mark the end of an era at Ford. Starting in September, approximately 350 girls will become part of the school enrollment. About 70 girls will be coming from recently closed St. Nicholas High School. On March 14, Ford held an open house for the girls from St. Nicholas who plan to come to this school in September. Sr. Lenore Toscano, principal of St. Nicholas, expressed the thanks of the entire faculty and student body of the school. The feeling here at Ford is mutual.

Girls will be expected in all grades, from freshmen to senior. In anticipation of the girls, some changes will have to come about. Among the changes will be the reconstruction of the gym to accommodate the girls. Approximately $100,000 will be spent to renovate the gym. The money will provide a large double dressing room area, each with showers, lockers and lavatory facilities. Extracurricular activities will be expanded and improved. The athletic program will also be expanded and the girls will be allowed in all spots, except baseball. Basketball, softball, volleyball, track and many other sports will be open to the girls. The girls will also comprise Ford's first cheerleading squad.

There will also be new courses next year for both girls and boys. Among these courses will be short-hand, transcription, office and secretarial practice, as well as all the regular courses. In the following year, a home economics course will be available to both girls and boys. There will also be special regulations regarding the girls, such as the dress code. They will be required to wear a uniform, but the school is trying to make it as comfortable for them as possible.

The girls will most certainly help boost the school's moral and, as Brother Alphonsus said, "I think that the girls will do a great deal for spirit in this school. I consider it a challenge to accept the girls and respond to them."

Senior Assembly Strikes Hard

The Student Council

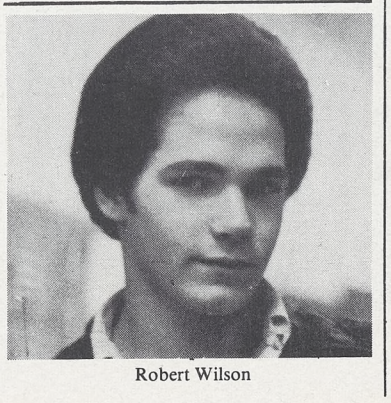
Anthony A. Gallotto

Early in March the Student Council held a special senior assembly, the purpose of which was to access the general feelings of the seniors concerning certain school policies. The meeting, which little more than half the senior body attended, was presided over by Co-Presidents Robert Wilson and Ralph Piccarelli, along with other high officials in the Student Government including, Vinnie Amato, Steve Cappiabiancia, John Polizzotto, Tom Ferro, and Martin Bischoff. The assembly began with remarks by Robert Wilson and Ralph Picarelli concerning the purpose and the general organization of the meeting.

Robert Wilson began discussion of the demerit system with the introduction of the first student to address the assembly, Frank Caputo, the political reporter for this newspaper. Frank was followed by numerous others who asked questions, voiced personal likes and dislikes, offered solutions and commented. Frank Pluchino, a yearbook staff member, was one of the first to raise the subject of a counteracting system to the demerit system.

The discussion of the merit and demerit systems grew long and involved. The students and faculty were obviously anxious to persue other topics. Robert Wilson moved on to the question of the overabundance of free time scheduled for seniors. Discussions went in many directions. It was stated that the great amount of free time leads to disruption in the corridors and eventually to classroom disturbance. James Donofrio mentioned that most seniors frequent the halls because they do not have free access to the library and gymnasium facilities. Conversation included the possibility of free access to the library as a privilege to seniors, however, no attention was given to use of the gym.

The senior assembly held by the Student Council was not intended to solve the problems but to give the Council members a basis on which to begin work. The assembly ended with the Student Council members enlightened and the student body relieved with the knowledge that their voices had been heard.



Robert Wilson

Ralph Piccarelli

TENNIS TOURNEY SUCCESSFUL

Michael Grecco

For a tennis tournament to be successful, whether it be professional or amatuer, it must satisfy some requirements which are essential to its operation. This includes: an orderly schedule, an experienced director, good court facilities and of course, a large group of talented players. The first Annual Bishop Ford Central Catholic Tennis Invitational, held during Mid-February, had all these ingredients. Under the the supervision and planning of tennis coach, Mr. Ray Habib, the tournament went on for two weeks, drawing more than 150 participants from all over the metropolitan area. The matches were played on Ford's superb indoor court and consisted of men's singles, both at the varsity and J.V. levels, men's doubles and women's singles.

The singles titles were captured by Paul Saputo of St. Francis Prep H.S. and Regina Ayoub of Our Saviour. Saputo defeated Ford's own Eddie Rehab in the final, 6-4, 6-4. But Eddie represented his school well by taking a come-from-behind victory in his Quater-Final match against Mike Hanson of Tottenville and then easily handling Kris Knecht, the second player in the match. In his semi-final match, Eddie and Ted Smith of York Prep took the doubles crown by defeating Hanson and Steve Tash, also of Tottenville, 6-2 and 7-5. Ayoub won her match in straight sets 6-2 and 7-5 against Beverly Ching of Cathedrel earning her the first place trophy in the girls competition. In Junior Varsity play, one of Ford's future hopefuls, Bob Dixon lost to another St. Francis student, Alvaro Salquers, 6-2 and 7-5. Coach Habib stresses the importance of the Junior Varsity because many future varsity players compete in it. Spectors at the match appreciated the good quality of the tennis that they were able to see and enjoy. Coach Habib stated, 'It took a lot of time and it got to be tedious, but when the result was in it was worth it.'

PLAY *B-A-A-L-L!*

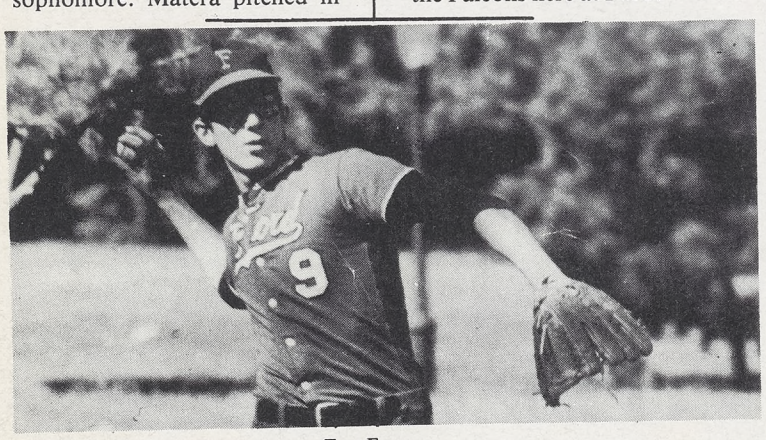
James Worsdale

It's spring: that means that baseball season is here. So, I went to see Mr. Nash and asked him how the varsity baseball team looks. First the lineup for 1977. The pithching staff consists of Joe Matera, Al Lopez, and John McEvoy. Larry DiOrio is the first baseman, Tom Ferro is at second, Joe Santos is at third, while Kevin Clinton is the catcher. Steve Forlano is at short. In the outfield is Tom Zwycewicz, Charlie Schellachi and Al Lopez or Tom Sclafani.

"I think our strongest points will be pitching and hitting," said Coach Nash. "We should be good as far as hitting the ball. Charlie Schellachi will probably be our best hitter. Tom Ferro and Joe Santos are also very good hitters and everyone else can also put the bat on the ball, which is the name of the game. We should be sound defensively. Even though our pitching is young, Lopez and Matera are very good pitchers. Al Lopez is a junior and Joe Matera is a sophomore. Matera pitched in the fall and Lopez was on the varsity last year."

The schedule for the team this year is different then it was last year. There are only four teams in Brooklyn. These are Ford, Nazareth, Xaverian and Loughlin. One team from Brooklyn qualifies for the city playoffs. The team plays a fifteen game schedule. They play Nazareth, Xaverian and Loughlin twice. Then they cross over once against the Staten Island teams, St. Peter's and Monsignor Farrell. They also play the Queens teams, Molloy, McClancy, St. Francis, Christ the King, Mater Christi and Holy Cross. "We play a lot of baseball in a short amount of time, but I think we can do it. Our goal is to make the city playoffs, which is the goal of every team. Most of the players are very good. "In addition to the ones mentioned before, there are Mike Checo, Joe Hect and Robert Maloney.

So, in my opinion, it's going to be a very successful year for the Falcons here at Ford.



Tom Ferro

WORTH OF INDIVIDUALITY

Father Bob

"Is it really all that important what I do? Or, for that matter, does it matter if I don't do anything?" Many young people are asking themselves these questions. And the answer is, "Yes, it's important. You really do count." In fact, the human race is nothing more than you, over and over again.

St. Paul tells us how important we are. "The Spirit you have received is not a spirit of slavery that leads you back into a state of fear but a spirit of adoption as sons (of God)." Then he goes on to say that if we are children of God, we are also God's heirs. Nothing unimportant about that!

There's nobody quite like you. God Has assigned to you a mission in life which He has given no one else. The world will be a little better or a little worse because you were in it. Suppose everyone were to say "I'm not important, I don't count," imagine the consequences that would result.

You are important. No one will ever be in exactly the same circumstances, or be offered the same opportunities as you. We find many problems in the world today. We see family life breaking down, a plentiful supply of drug peddlers, racial unrest, and a lot of crime and political corruption, to name a few. These problems can be blamed in large measure on one person after another backing away from his responsibilities. We can hope for a change for the better as soon as one person after another takes the initiative, no matter how slight, to make things better. A Chinese proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. A few years ago in Connecticut, a swarm of ants chewed through an oak tree a foot thick, toppling it over two electric lines and cutting off power to 150 homes.

We don't have to be geniuses to do some good, either. Look at the Apostles: twelve nobodies! And look what they were able to do. Maybe we're not called to do all that the Apostles did, but we shouldn't underestimate ourselves either. We have to say to ourselves: "I am only one. But I am one. I cannot do everything. But I can do something. And what I can do, with God's help I will do." So many worthwhile projects never get off the ground because of that extra push that seperates success from failure.

I like that line in The Catcher in the Rye which says, "The mark of an immature man is that he wants to die for a noble cause. But the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one."

FACULTY FOCUS: *Marie Rudge*

Mrs. Maria M. Rudge

Roy Galifi

Mrs. Rudge was born in Palermo, Sicily. When she was two years old she and her family moved to Pula, Yugoslavia, where she lived for four years. After that she and her family immigrated to America.

Mrs. Rudge studied French and Italian at St. John's University, where she received her Bachaelor's and Master's degrees. Mrs. Rudge studied French under our own Mrs. Bianchi at St. John's University. She studied Spanish at New York University and then began to teach.

Mrs. Rudge started her first teaching assignment at an all girls' Mother Cabrini High School. After Mother Cabrini, she came to an all boys' Bishop Ford High School. When asked whom she prefers teaching, she said, "I prefer teaching boys." She has taught at Ford for the past seven years and she hopes to teach here for many more. Mrs. Rudge enjoys being a member of the Bishop Ford foreign language department which includes herself, Brother Benjamin O'Reilly, Sister Muriel Bradley, Mrs. Theresa M. Bianchi, Mr. Manuel R. Fernandez, and Brother Ralph J. Rivers.

Mrs. Rudge is "piena di vita." Although she is not involved in any of Bishop Ford's extra-curricular activities, she does have some varied out-of-school interests. She enjoys going out to dinner, reading, being in the company of friends, and going to the opera. Mrs. Rudge also has thoughts of starting an Italian club.

STARS GLITTER AT FORD

Joseph Bentivegna

Entertainment at Bishop Ford? That's Right! In the next few months Bishop Ford will present some of the best known stars in the business, such as Peter Lemongello and Vic Damone. The way in which this all came about was through the efforts of Brother Michael Russo. He had an idea and put it to work with the help of John Smythe, manager of the Colonie Hill resort hotel.

The first star to appear will be Peter Lemongello, the Italian American singer with the dynamic voice. He will be here for two days on April 22 and 23. followed by Vic Damone, a Brooklyn-born singer who will sing old favorites as well as new ones. He will appear for three days on May 20, 21, and 22. The program will continue with other great shows from now until June. During the summer there will be no shows as the auditorium is not equipped with air conditioning. But in September the show will resume again for everyone to enjoy.

Besides being enjoyable to see, these shows are also beneficial to the school. For every ticket sold, Bishop Ford receives a two dollar donation. As Brother Michael stated, "the main purpose of these shows are to bring notoriety to Bishop Ford and to try to raise funds to meet debts and keep tuition down to a price that a family can afford to pay, and eventually to bring football to Bishop Ford."

So this reporter strongly urges everyone to attend the performances, have a good time and help your school.

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